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Wages in Lithuania [1]

466 / The average working day in the manufacturing industries in Lithuania is 8 hours and the working week 48 hours. The minimum working week in factories is 4 days as provided by the Government regulations.

465 462 The average daily wages of unskilled industrial workers on July 31, 1937, are shown below, by sex.

	Males (lits) [2]	Females (lits)
Chemical industry	7.60	----
Hides and skins	4.25	3.15
Textiles	5.20	4.05
Lumber	5.55	4.55
Paper and printing	7.35	4.50
Foodstuffs	4.50	3.95
Electricity, gas, and water	7.25	----

[2] Average exchange rate of lit in February 1938 and December 1938—about 17 cents.

The average daily wages of skilled workers amounted to 8.75 lits. The daily wages of a seasonal farm hand on May 1, 1938, amounted to 2.40 lits for a man and 1.80 lits for a woman, including board, and 3.35 lits and 2.50 lits, respectively, without board.

Farm hands are hired at Christmas time for 1 year and receive wages in cash and in kind, in conformity with an agreement. The yearly wages of farm hands during 1938 are given below. The farm hands are also provided with free clothing, board, and lodging.

	Total yearly wages (lits)	Cash wages (lits)
Male hands	332	310
Female hands	263	243
Junior male hands	220	203
Junior female hands	178	162
Shepherds	118	101

Daily wages in the peat-extraction industry average from 5.50 lits to 8.50 lits for unskilled males and from 3.00 lits to 5.00 lits for unskilled females. Machinists receive from 7.50 lits to 9.00 lits per day.

465 The following are the monthly wages paid in Kaunas by the Railway Administration of the Lithuanian Ministry of Communications. Wages in the provincial districts are 10 percent lower.

	Lits per month		Lits per month
Locomotive engineers:		Firemen	277.00
First class	519.00	Conductors:	
Second class	476.00	First class	280.00
Third class	415.00	Second class	240.00
Assistant locomotive engineers:		Third class	180.00
First class	337.00	Station masters:	
Second class	314.00	First class	540.00
		Second class	450.00

[1] Report of Vladimir Kublitzky, clerk of American Legation at Kaunas.

Station masters—Con.	Lits per month
Third class	380.00
Fourth class	340.00
Fifth class	300.00
Signalmen	200.00

Baggage agents:	Lits per month
First class	300.00
Second class	280.00
Third class	240.00
Unskilled workers	[1] 4.50–6.00

[1] Per day

Monthly wages paid to Kaunas municipal autobus employees are given below. Wages in the Provinces are 10 to 15 percent lower.

	Lits per month
Drivers	250.00–270.00
Conductors	210.00–230.00
Mechanics:	
First class	300.00
Second class	260.00
Third class	200.00

The figures below show the wages per hour of specified classes of skilled workmen in the building trades throughout Lithuania:

	Lits per hour
Bricklayers, first class	1.50
Bricklayers, second class	1.40
Electricians, ironmongers, and carpenters	1.60–1.70

An unskilled male laborer receives from 5.00 lits to 6.00 lits per day and a female laborer, from 3.00 lits to 4.00 lits per day.

The following wages and salaries are paid to skilled workers in the printing and publishing trades:

	Lits per month
Linotypists	350–550
Engravers	350
Assistant engravers	300
Managers, printing room	275
Compositors	250

	Lits per day
Mechanics	9
Sterectypists	9
Stone polishers	5
Bookbinders	5

Payment for overtime in general amounts to not less than 25 percent of the basic daily wages, provided the rate has not been set forth in the agreement concluded between the employer and employees.

No allowances for dependents or payments in kind are made in Lithuania, except in the case of farm labor. Free housing is given sometimes to watchmen and to one or two skilled indispensable workmen in industrial enterprises. Every laborer after having worked 1 year under agreement is entitled to 12 days' holiday with pay.

In conformity with an amendment to the income-tax law enacted October 9, 1935, a tax on earnings has to be paid by all persons except State employees. This tax varies from 2.00 lits for workmen, either single or married, earning from 101 lits to 130 lits per month, to 53.40 lits for single workers earning from 591 lits to 600 lits. The rates are considerably lower for married persons with a family, the reduction from the single rate amounting to as high as 50 percent where the family consists of 7 or more persons. The income tax for

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651 individuals residing in the rural parts of the country is slightly higher, due to the lower standard of living.

745 An employees' sickness-insurance fund was created in 1928 to provide for medical treatment, especially of the poorer classes. Membership in this organization is compulsory for all workers and employees, except farm laborers and State employees. Monthly contributions, equal in amount, are made by both the employer and the employee, according to wage classes, of which there are six. For wage class I (daily wage, 4 lits; weekly wage, 24 lits; and monthly wage, 100 lits) the monthly payment to the sick fund is 5.40 lits. The payments for each wage class are progressively higher, until for class VI (daily wage, 12.01 lits and over; weekly wage, 73 lits and over; and monthly wage, 301 lits and over) the payment to the sick fund is 21.60 lits. The maximum benefit allowed ranges from 3 lits for wage class I to 14 lits for wage class VI.

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An additional amount (10 percent of the monthly payments made to the sick fund) is contributed in equal shares by the employer and the employee to the Labor Chamber.

647 All State employees contribute 6 percent of their wages to a pension fund. Furthermore, from 4.5 percent to 18.73 percent of the wages of a married State employee are deducted for the special fund created to balance the budget, the deduction of a single employee varing between 11.7 percent to 24.53 percent. These deductions apply to State employees residing in Kaunas, Klaipeda, the Klaipeda Territory, and abroad. The deductions made from wages of State employees residing in the rural parts of the country vary from 9.5 percent to 23.73 percent for married, and from 15.3 percent to 29.53 percent for single persons. These rates became effective on April 1, 1937.

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651 Tax deductions from wages amount to 10 percent; however, a certain amount is exempt from taxation. In the case of a single worker the exemption applies to all wages under 36.50 lits per week. Ten percent of the amount exceeding 36.50 lits per week is subject to taxation and is determined in accordance with the family status of the worker. The result of this, in practice, is that married workers with one child do not pay taxes.

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456 Contributions for social, sickness, accident, old-age, and disability insurance amount in all to 9 percent, 4½ percent of which are paid by the employer and the remaining 4½ percent by the worker.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

Art. 87. The Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR is appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 88. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 89. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter VIII. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

Art. 90. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 91. The citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for factory and office workers, the reduction of the working day to seven or six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in shops where conditions of work are particularly arduous, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest homes and clubs for the accommodation of the working people.

Art. 92. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical service for working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

Art. 93. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to education.

This right is ensured by universal and compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including the seventh grade; by a system of state stipends for students of higher educational establishments who excel in their studies; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language, and by the organization in the factories, state farms and machine and tractor stations of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

Art. 94. Women in the Lithuanian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

3: Washington & Macgowan G-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RR1 Baltic Countries

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LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE BALTIC STATES

MORE strict control of workers is indicated by laws recently enacted in Latvia and Lithuania.

Forced Labor Service in Latvia [1]

La 466 [462]

The Latvian Government issued a law on May 31, 1940 providing for forced labor service in Latvia. All able-bodied citizens of both sexes from 16 to 60 years of age must participate "with all their bodily and intellectual abilities" in raising and promoting the defensive and economic strength of the State when called upon by the latter for any service.

La 647 466

On June 7, 1940, a supplementary law was enacted providing that in the future all applicants for vacancies at public offices must prove that they have worked in agriculture for not less than 3 months within the preceding 3 years. Furthermore, all persons who have entered public service within the last 5 years and who, by October 1, 1941, are unable to show at least 3 months' work in agriculture are to be dismissed from service.

Registry of Skilled Workers in Lithuania [2]

Li 464

A law was passed on June 1, 1940, providing for registration of the skilled workers in Lithuania employed by shops and factories and those working independently, either as master craftsmen or craftsmen's helpers. All are to be required to pass an examination on their knowledge of and skill in their respective trades.

Li 464 647 466

There is to be appointed a Craftsmen's Registrar who will supervise individual craftsmen and workshops. Under penalty of a fine up to 500 lits,[3] these must supply the Registrar with information required

[1] Report of S. Walter Washington, American consul at Riga.
[2] Report of Basil F. Macgowan, American vice consul at Kaunas.
[3] Lit—about 17 cents.

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3: Washington & Macgowan G-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RB1 Baltic Countries
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under the law. To protect old craftsmen of minority nationalities who might find it difficult to pass the required examinations, especially in the Lithuanian language, the Registrar may permit persons with good qualifications, who have engaged in their craft for more than 5 years, to continue their work if there is a labor shortage in their respective trades. Such persons are to be included in a special list filed in the Registrar's office, and they will retain their titles if they continue their work during an additional 10 years to the satisfaction of the Registrar.

The law applies to approximately 23,000 skilled workers in Lithuania.